DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 121 503 RC 009 100

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TITLE Changes in Quality of Life in Mississippi: 1960-1970. Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 824.
INSTITUTION Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, State College.
SPONS AGENCY Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.
REPORT NO MS-Bull-824
PUB DATE Mar 75
NOTE 20p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage
DESCRIPTORS Academic Achievement; Age; Census Figures; *Comparative Statistics; Demography; Economically Disadvantaged; *Economic Factors; Employment; Family Income; *Health; Racial Differences; *Rural Urban Differences; Sex Differences; Southern States; Tables (Data); Welfare
IDENTIFIERS *Mississippi; *Quality of Life

ABSTRACT

As the first in a series of five reports dealing with selected aspects of the quality of life in Mississippi, this report utilizes U.S. Census data (1959 vs 1969 and 1960 vs 1970) to provide a statistical description of social and economic conditions and the change in those conditions over a 10-year period. Tabular and narrative data are presented for the following quality of life indicators: family income, family poverty, housing, employment, education, health, and welfare. Additionally, data on urban, rural, racial, and sexual differences are presented. The general results presented include: (1) Economic Improvements (median family income up 100 percent; poverty classifications down to 29 percent; a labor force increase of 5 percent; a drop in unemployment of.4 percent; but a lag in income levels of blacks and females when compared with whites and males); (2) Educational Level Improvements; (3) Housing Improvements (increased home ownership for all populations examined; an increase in the number of houses with hot and cold running water; a decrease in the number of persons per room; and an increase in household conveniences); (4) Health Improvements (decrease in infant mortality; increased facilities for the aged/infirm; but little or no improvement in the number of doctors, dentists, and hospital beds); (5) Welfare Improvements (an increase greater than the cost of living). (JC)

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Bulletin 824 March 1975

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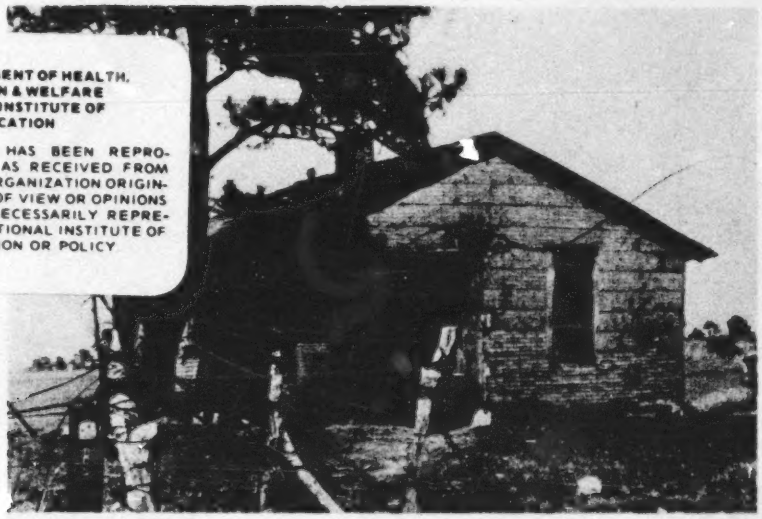

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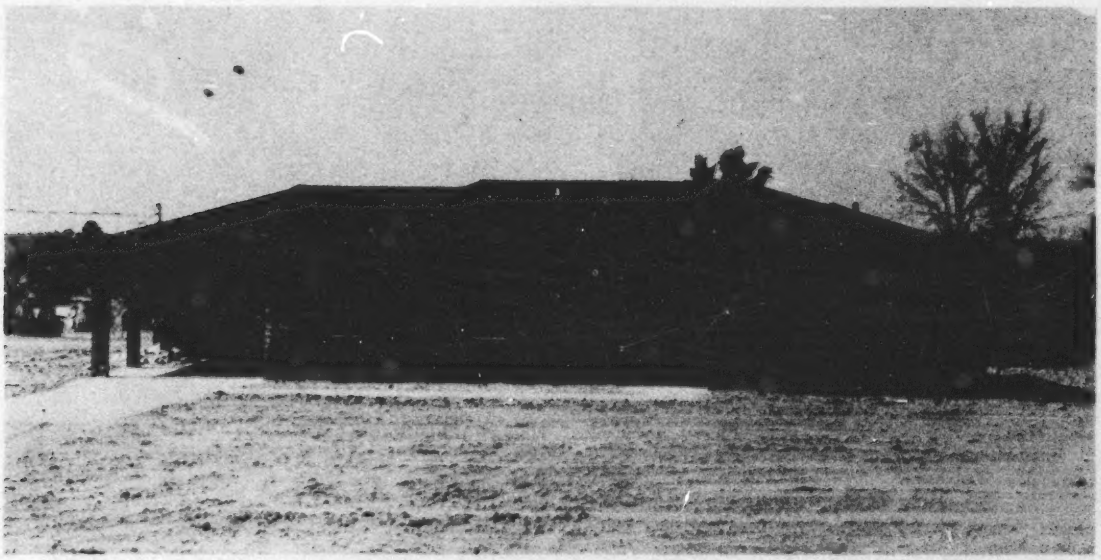

MAFES MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL & FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION
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Bulletin 824

Changes in Quality of Life in Mississippi: 1960-1970

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March 1975

Preface

This is the first of five reports dealing with selected aspects of the quality of life in Mississippi. Included in this report is statistical information for the State as a whole. The four reports to follow contain information on counties grouped according to Districts of the Cooperative Extension Service.

Because quality of life is a complex phenomenon, no claim is made that this report presents a complete picture. It is based, however, on the assumption that part of quality is reflected in quantity. When it is observed, for example, that median family income for Mississippi families more than doubled during the 1960's and that the magnitude of the increase exceeded the rate of inflation, it is apparent that quality of life improved, at least in the sense that the families are able to afford more of the goods and services available in the marketplace.

Not all of the indicators are positive. There are still many families with incomes below the poverty level, and there are still people with limited education. This series of reports attempts to show both the positive and negative changes in the quality of life for Mississippians in the 1960's. This particular report is designed primarily to orient the reader to some of the general state-wide trends. The four reports to follow will be more detailed and therefore the information should be of more use to personnel in action agencies working on a county or regional, rather than a state-wide, basis.

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Summary

In this bulletin we present some quantitative measures of the quality of life in Mississippi, namely, family income, family poverty, employment, education, housing, health, and welfare. Of particular interest are changes in these measures. In general, based on these, the quality of life in Mississippi improved between the last two censuses.

All of the economic indicators showed an improvement. Median family income more than doubled while the number of families classified as poverty families dropped from just over 50 percent of the families to 29 percent.* The labor force increased by 6 percent while unemployment dropped from 5.4 percent in 1960 to 5.0 percent in 1970. Even though the economic indicators show an improved quality of life, the income levels of blacks and females continued to lag behind those of whites and males.

The educational level of Mississippians also improved between 1960 and 1970. When this improvement is viewed in light of the fact that Mississippi does not have a compulsory school attendance law, it takes on additional significance.

If "one's home is one's castle," the quality of housing for Mississippians should be closely related to their quality of life. Home ownership increased for all categories of Mississippians examined (rural - urban and white - black). Examination of plumbing facilities and the number of persons per room showed that there was a substantial increase in the number of houses with hot and cold piped water and a substantial decrease (except in urban areas) in the number of houses with no piped water. With respect to number of persons per room, the results showed a decrease in every category, indicating a decrease in crowded homes between 1960 and 1970. Household conveniences that make life more comfortable; e.g., clothes washers and dryers, home freezers, and T.V., increased for all types of Mississippians in the 1960's.

The health indicators examined showed a decrease in the infant mortality rate; this lower rate may indicate better health facilities, a better home environment and better access to health facilities. In addition, health facilities for the aged and infirm increased considerably in the 1960's. The only area where little or no progress was made between 1960 and 1970 was in the number of doctors and dentists per 1,000 population and in the number of hospital beds per 1,000 population.

Welfare payments, on the average, increased between 1960 and 1970. The increase was greater than the increase in the cost of living index for the same period, indicating that Mississippians receiving public assistance experienced an increase in their quality of life in the 1960's.

These indicators show that, in general, the quality of life for Mississippi families has improved. One must be careful when looking at general trends, however, because even though the criteria examined indicate that most Mississippians experienced an improvement in the quality of life in the 1960's, this does not mean that all groups benefited equally or that some groups did not actually experience a decrease in their quality of life.

**This drop may be due in part to the new index used by the U. S. Bureau of Census.*

Changes in Quality of Life in Mississippi: 1960-1970

According to the National Goals Research Staff, "concern about what is now called 'quality of life' is not new in American life, and rarely has anyone advocated national policies to promote growth only for its own sake."[1] Until recently, however, widespread acceptance of continued economic growth as a virtue apparently has been based on the assumption that progress can be measured in terms of quantitative growth.

The recent surfacing of interest in quality of life must be viewed in a positive way, but this interest must not be allowed to overshadow interest in the quantitative aspects of life, because in many respects quantity reflects quality. When it is pointed out, for example, that millions of families in the United States live in poverty (defined in terms of income), the conclusion is unavoidable that quality of life for them must be something less than desirable. Not only is the existence of poverty a contradiction of American values; it also is a negative commentary on the American economic and political systems.

Those who operate within the framework of national policy and with a normative commitment to alleviating poverty, often ask what they can do to improve quality of life in Mississippi. This question poses two major problems: One of these pertains to the complexity of the term "quality of life."[2] Because it defies precise definition, except at the individual level, persons who "engage the enemy," so to speak, find themselves in a maze of perceptions, ideas and notions that do not coincide at all points. Thus they are faced with seemingly insurmountable barriers at the outset.

The other problem is that of deciding where limited resources can be utilized most effectively as inputs. This problem is particularly acute for USDA personnel who must function within the constraints of time and fund limitations. On the other hand, USDA personnel, especially those involved in research at Agricultural Experiment Stations and those involved in action programs in the Cooperative Extension Service, do have the advantage of experience in dealing with social and economic problems. The value of this experience, however, is vitiated to some degree by the fact that quality of life is so complex.

Planners can, however, move beyond these difficulties through the use of partial data for arriving at definitive insights and decision-making. This does not solve the problems, but it does enable researchers and action agency personnel to function within the parameters of the problems.

The use of partial data is nothing more than the examination of some of the information that pertains to quality of life. Examination, of course, implies something more than simply observing facts and figures. For planning purposes, researchers and action agency personnel must examine the information from a normative perspective. That is, they must ask what the information means in terms of their efforts to alleviate conditions that constitute negative aspects of quality of life or that act as barriers to improvement of that quality.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present quantitative information about various aspects of quality of life in Mississippi. Included in the report is information pertaining to income, poverty, employment, education, housing, health, and welfare. Two main objectives guided the compilation of statistical data for the report: (1) providing a statistical description of social and economic conditions in Mississippi, and (2) providing a measure of change in those conditions over a ten-year period.

Quality of Life Indicators

Economic Indicators---One of the most widely used measures of the state of any society is that class of indicators of production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. At the national level the GNP (Gross National Product) and the GNI (Gross National Income) are summary measures of the "state of the nation" in economic terms.

Although gross measures of per-

[1]**Toward Balanced Growth: Quantity with Quality.** *A report to the President by the National Goals Research Staff, July 1970, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., P. 25.*

[2]*For an attempt to explicate the term, see Ronald C. Powers, "What Is Quality Life-Conflicts in Values,"* **Achieving Quality of Life in the Countryside.** *Proceedings of Forty-sixth Conference of the American Country Life Association, Inc., Ames, Iowa.*

Table 1. Median Family Income By Age, Place of Residence, Race and Sex of Household Head, Mississippi, 1969.

Age and Place of Residence	White		Negro	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	$	$	$	$
All Families				
Under 25 years old	6,083	2,925	3,904	1,186
25-34	8,671	3,629	4,817	1,771
35-44	9,748	4,661	4,743	2,035
45-64	8,428	4,990	3,789	2,100
65 and older	3,162	3,527	1,969	1,761
Urban				
Under 25 years old	5,963	1,880	4,466	1,487
25-34	8,706	2,525	5,873	1,924
35-44	10,000	3,261	5,833	2,274
65 and older	3,697	2,914	2,515	2,049
Rural Nonfarm				
Under 25 years old	5,604	1,428	3,634	960
25-34	7,238	2,116	4,232	1,536
35-44	7,481	2,580	4,028	1,868
45-64	5,838	2,694	3,406	1,671
65 and older	2,172	1,966	1,795	1,540
Rural Farm				
Under 25 years old	3,856	674	2,383	681
25-34	6,405	1,775	2,716	1,328
35-44	6,795	2,341	2,186	1,711
45-64	5,024	3,168	2,760	1,944
65 and older	2,395	2,385	1,891	1,788

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of the Population: 1970. Detailed characteristics.* Final Report PC(1)-D26 Mississippi. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

formance in the economic system have some utility, it is only by examining more refined measures that program planners gain needed insights.

Median Family Income---There were 534,444 families in Mississippi in 1970 and their median family income was $6,071 in 1969[3], slightly more than twice that of 1959 (Table 1). Also, median family income of Mississippians more than doubled from 1949 to 1959[4]. The median family income of all United States families increased from $5,660 in 1959 to $9,586 in 1969, only about 69 percent.

As is true of all such measures, median family income obscures large variations. Only when the measure is viewed for several different grouping of families does a more detailed picture emerge.

Viewing median income as a measure of quality of life, it is apparent that Mississippi families enjoying the highest quality of life were white, lived in an urban area, and were headed by males between 35 and 44 years of age (Table 1). Those experiencing the lowest quality of life were black families living on a farm and headed by a female under 25 years of age.

The highest income for blacks was for urban families with male

[3]*U. S. Bureau of the Census,* **Census of Population: 1970. General Social and Economic Characteristics.** *Final Report PC(1)-C26 Mississippi. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.*

[4]*Increases in income must be evaluated in light of inflation. For example, although median family income for the state increased by 110.5 percent from 1959 to 1969, real income increased by 58.0 percent, i.e., purchasing power did improve.*

heads between 25 and 34 years of age.

Both black and white females who headed families were older than male heads irrespective of place of residence. Female family heads also were different from males in that their lowest income level was in the "Under 25" age group for all three residential classes, whereas the lowest income level for all male heads was in the "65 and older" group (Table 2.).

Female heads had a lower initial income level than did males (both black and white) and reached their highest income level at higher ages. This relationship held for all three residential classes.

The families with white male heads had significant advantages over other families, no matter where they lived, given income as a measure of the families' ability to compete in the market place for goods and services.

The greatest improvement in family income from 1959 to 1969 was experienced by black rural farm families, followed by white rural farm families (Table 3.). During this period Mississippi families experienced an actual increase in purchasing power relative to the national average.

Urban white families experienced the least improvement, but the income from which the different family types moved cannot be ignored. Rural farm families, both black and white, were at the bottom of the scale in 1959 and 1969 but the gap between their incomes and those of urban families was narrower in 1969 than in 1959.

Family Poverty---Slightly more than one half of all families in Mississippi were classified as poverty families in 1959. In 1969, the figure had dropped to 29 percent. It is probable that the figure for 1969 is more realistic than the one used for 1959, because the index used for 1969 represented a significant improvement over earlier measures.[5] The rate of family poverty ranged from a low of 11 percent for urban

Table 2. Median Family Income Comparisons By Place of Residence, Race and Sex of Household Head and Age of Household Head , Mississippi, 1969.

Place of Residence Race and Sex	High Income		Low Income	
	Income	Age of Head	Income	Age of Head
	$	Years	$	Years
Urban				
White male head	10,000	35-44	3,697	65+
Black male head	5,873	25-34	2,515	65+
White female head	3,691	45-64	1,880	Under 25
Black female head	2,361	45-64	1,487	Under 25
Rural Nonfarm				
White male head	7,481	35-44	2,172	65+
Black male head	4,232	25-34	1,795	65+
White female head	2,694	45-64	1,428	Under 25
Black female head	1,871	45-64	950	Under 25
Rural Farm				
White male head	6,794	35-44	2,395	65+
Black male head	3,286	35-44	1,891	65+
White female head	3,168	45-64	674	Under 25
Black female head	1,944	45-64	581	Under 25

Source: Table 1 of this report.

Table 3. Median Family Income By Race and Place of Residence, Mississippi, 1959 and 1969, with Comparisons.

Race and Place of Residence	1959	1969	Change	Change in Real Income
	$	$	%	%
All families	2,884	6,071	110.5	58.0
White				
Urban	5,493	8,883	61.7	21.4
Rural Nonfarm	3,719	6,696	80.0	35.0
Rural Farm	2610	5890	125.7	69.4
Black				
Urban	2,100	3,865	84.0	38.2
Rural Nonfarm	1,271	2,856	124.7	69.2
Rural Farm	974	2,407	147.1	85.6

***Actual income adjusted for changes in purchasing power.**

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census of Population: 1970, General Social and Economic Characteristics*, Final Report PC(1)-C26 Mississippi. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

[5]The new index allows for differences in the cost of living between farm and nonfarm families. It also accounts for differences in family size and sex of family head.

families with a male head between 25 and 44 years of age (black and white combined) to a high of 97 percent for black rural farm families with a female head under 25 years of age (Table 4.).

Poverty remains a problem in Mississippi and the fact that more than one-fourth of the families in the state fell below the poverty level in 1969 leaves no doubt that quality of life for the state as a whole is less than is desirable.

Employment Indicators---The total civilian labor force in Mississippi increased from 711,898 in 1960 to 754,836 in 1970. There was considerable variation, however, according to race, sex and place of residence. The black labor force decreased by 42,249, while the white labor force increased from 446,089 to 531,276.

The number of white females in the labor force increased from 143,145 in 1960 to 199,577 in 1970 (Table 5.). White males increased by 28,755 for the same time period--an increase of about 9 percent. Among blacks, the decrease of 16 percent during the decade was accounted for almost wholly by males.

Participation in the labor force in urban areas increased by about 20 percent during the 10 years, but only about one percent of the increase was accounted for by blacks. In 1960, 246,779 members of the labor force were classified as rural nonfarm residents. By 1970 this component of the labor force had increased to slightly more than 306,000 and most of this increase was accounted for by whites.

The number of rural farm residents classified as members of the labor force decreased by almost 50 percent from 1960 to 1970. The largest decrease occurred among black males. The number declined by 70 percent in the decade. White males, with a loss of 42 percent, were followed by white females with a loss of only 12 percent.

Table 4. Number of Families With Income Less Than Poverty Level By Place of Residence, Sex and Age of Family Head*, Mississippi, 1969.

Place of Residence and Sex	Age of Family Head							
	Under 25		25-44		45-64		Over 65	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Urban								
All families								
Male Head	3463	(18)	9293	(11)	9395	(13)	8837	(34)
Female Head	1549	(67)	9010	(62)	6329	(46)	3210	(47)
Black								
Male Head	1261	(34)	5709	(32)	6265	(36)	4895	(58)
Female Head	1194	(81)	6947	(81)	4954	(68)	2299	(65)
Rural Nonfarm								
All families								
Male Head	3600	(22)	18674	(22)	22315	(30)	21163	(60)
Female Head	1088	(75)	6903	(71)	6530	(59)	4749	(62)
Black								
Male Head	1807	(49)	11148	(58)	13222	(61)	9794	(78)
Female Head	790	(91)	5018	(86)	4778	(70)	3036	(78)
Rural Farm								
All families								
Male Head	438	(38)	3574	(30)	7554	(31)	4994	(47)
Female Head	121	(82)	653	(69)	848	(48)	641	(50)
Black								
Male Head	352	(73)	2207	(64)	4431	(62)	2607	(66)
Female Head	111	(97)	575	(86)	689	(72)	439	(70)

*Only 48 of the 124 "thresholds" are used in this table.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, *Census of Population: 1970. Detailed Characteristics.* Final Report PC(1)-D26 Mississippi. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

Unemployment---Unemployment dropped from 5.4 percent in 1960 to 5.0 percent in 1970. The unemployment rate in 1970 ranged from 2.4 percent for urban white males to 14.9 percent for rural-farm, black females. In 1960, comparable rates were 3.5 and 9.8. For all males the unemployment rate dropped from 4.9 percent in 1960 to 3.8 percent in 1970, but the rate remained essentially the same for females.

Industrial Shifts---Industrial shifts refer to changes in the number of persons employed in the major sectors of the economy. Although most of the occupational categories showed growth from 1960 to 1970, agriculture experienced a significant decrease, particularly among nonwhites.[6] Nonwhites, on the other hand, ex-

[6] *Nonwhites is not synonymous with blacks; included in the nonwhite category are blacks and others, such as American Indians, not classified as whites.*

Table 5. Civilian Labor Force (People 16 years of age and older) By Race, Place of Residence and Sex, Mississippi, 1960 and 1970, With Comparisons.

Place of Residence and Race	1960		1970		Change from 1959 to 1969	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
The State						
White (16 and over)	302,944	143,145	331,699	199,577	+28,755	+56,432
Employed	290,333	136,273	321,884	191,262	+31,551	+154,989
Unemployed	12,791	6,872	9,815	8,315	- 2,976	+ 1,443
% Unemployed	4.2	4.8	3.0	4.2		
Black (16 and over)	166,972	98,837	125,507	98,053	-41,465	- 784
Employed	156,488	90,619	116,709	87,524	-39,779	- 3.095
Unemployed	10,484	8,218	8,798	10,529	- 1,686	+ 2,311
% Unemployed	6.3	8.3	7.0	10.7		
Urban						
Whites (16 and over)	125,759	72,891	155,807	104,477	+30,048	+31,586
Employed	121,270	69,489	152,058	100,597	+30,788	-31,108
Unemployed	4,489	3,402	3,749	3,880	- 740	+ 478
% Unemployed	3.5	4.7	2.4	3.7		
Blacks (16 and over)	55,529	50,556	53,482	53,145	- 2,047	+ 2,589
Employe	50,282	46,568	49,901	48,291	- 381	+ 1,723
Unemployed	5,247	3,988	3,581	4,854	1,666	+ 866
% Unemployed	9.4	7.8	6.7	9.1		
Rural Non-Farm						
Whites (16 and over)	111,610	49,268	137,685	76,690	+26,075	+27,422
Employed	105,461	46,838	132,656	72,926	+27,195	+26,088
Unemployed	6,149	2,430	5,029	3,764	- 1,020	+ 1.334
% Unemployed	5.5	4.9	3.7	4.9		
Blacks (16 and over)	55,278	30,623	55,162	36,899	- 116	+ 6,276
Employed	51,685	28,118	51,165	32,429	- 520	+ 4,302
Unemployed	3,593	2,505	3,997	4,479	+ 404	+ 1,974
% Unemployed	6.5	8.2	7.2	12.1		
Rural Farm						
Whites (16 and Over)	65,575	20,986	38,207	18,410	-27,368	- 2,576
Employed	63,422	19,946	37,170	17,739	-26,252	- 2,207
Unemployed	2,153	1,040	1,037	671	- 1,116	- 369
% Unemployed	3.2	5.0	2.7	3.6		
Blacks (16 and over)	56,165	17,658	16,863	8,009	-39,302	- 9,649
Employed	54,521	15,933	15,643	6,813	-38,878	- 9,120
Unemployed	1,644	1,725	1,220	1,196	- 424	- 529
% Unemployed	2.9	9.8	7.2	14.9		

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, *Census of Population: 1970. General Social and Economic Characteristics.* Final Report PC (1)-C26 Mississippi. U.S. Bureau of Census. *Census of Population: 1960. Detailed Characteristics.* Final Report PC (1)-C26 Mississippi.

Table 6. Employed Labor Force by Economic Sector, Race and Sex, Mississippi, 1960[1] and 1970[2], with Comparisons

Economic Sector	1960		1970		Change 1960 to 1970	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	Number				%	
			White			
Agriculture	53,739	3,956	26,437	2,579	-50.8	- 34.8
Construction	32,210	1,008	38,521	2,068	+19.6	+105.2
Manufacturing	63,934	36,443	84,024	51,414	+31.4	+ 41.1
Transportation, Communication, Utilities	21,608	5,335	25,593	7,303	+18.4	+ 36.9
Wholesale Trade	11,251	2,407	15,772	3,998	+40.2	+ 66.1
Retail Trade	44,106	28,449	49,918	36,432	+13.2	+ 28.0
Business and Repair Service	8,147	1,289	9,877	2,650	+21.2	+105.6
Private Household & Other Personal Services	5,640	10,466	5,394	11,341	- 4.3	+ 8.3
Public Administration	15,712	7,011	19,164	7,252	+21.9	3.4
Educational Service	6,938	16,012	12,280	26,226	+77.0	+ 63.8
Health Services	4,403	10,470	4,599	17,360	4.4	+ 65.8
			Non-White			
Agriculture	73,803	14,780	22,986	1,712	-68.8	- 88.4
Construction	11,540	91	12,856	325	+11.4	+257.1
Manufacturing	28.335	2,092	37,762	12,669	+33.3	+505.5
Transportation, Communication, Utilities	7,940	371	8,632	1,334	+ 8.7	+259.6
Wholesale Trade	3,084	260	3,666	510	+18.9	+ 96.1
Retail Trade	13,225	8,149	10,221	8,498	-22.7	+ 4.3
Business and Repair Service	1,943	56	2,060	431	+ 6.0	+669.6
Private Household & Other Personal Services	7,145	50,319	4,674	32,374	-34.8	- 35.7
Public Administration	1,549	301	2,448	948	+58.0	+215.0
Educational Services	3,955	9,092	7,096	19,060	+79.4	+109.6
Health Services	1,334	3,147	1,889	6,982	+41.6	+121.8

[1]Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census of Population: 1970 Detailed Characteristics.* Final Report PC (1)-D26 Mississippi.
[2]Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *U.S. Census of Population: 1960 Detailed Characteristics.* Mississippi. Final Report PC (1)-28D.

Table 7. Educational Levels of Residents 25 Years of Age and Older By Place of Residence, Sex, and Race*, Mississippi, 1960[1] and 1970[2].

Place of Residence Sex and Race	Total Population 25 Years Old and Older		Median Years of School Completed		Completed One to Eight Years		Completed High School		With Some College		With Four or more Years of College	
	1960	1970	1960	1970	1960	1970	1960	1970	1960	1970	1960	1970
	Number				%							
Urban												
Males												
White	133,387	161,985	12.2	12.5	23.6	17.5	19.8	30.4	14.0	15.9	14.7	19.2
Nonwhite	59,108	61,778	6.2	7.7	69.3	57.2	6.3	11.2	2.2	3.5	2.5	4.3
Females												
White	150,313	189,110	12.2	12.4	28.7	14.9	34.5	37.1	14.3	15.8	9.4	11.8
Nonwhite	78,259	84,570	7.2	8.6	63.5	52.3	7.7	12.6	2.5	3.7	3.2	5.5
Rural Non-Farm												
Males												
White	126,028	163,805	9.6	10.8	43.8	34.9	18.4	25.4	7.5	9.0	6.4	6.8
Nonwhite	61,554	71,647	4.5	6.0	76.2	69.8	2.6	5.5	.8	1.5	1.2	1.9
Females												
White	132,270	175,978	10.5	11.3	36.2	28.4	24.2	30.4	7.7	8.0	4.8	4.9
Nonwhite	73,939	86,182	6.3	7.7	74.3	63.8	3.4	7.3	1.5	1.8	1.6	3.2
Rural Farm												
Males												
White	69,718	37,690	8.8	10.6	52.5	35.4	14.7	24.6	4.8	8.8	2.8	5.0
Nonwhite	53,236	18,095	4.6	5.5	80.8	76.8	1.8	3.3	.6	1.3	.4	1.3
Females												
White	70,243	38,897	9.9	11.4	40.5	26.4	10.6	30.8	6.0	8.4	3.3	5.0
Nonwhite	56,921	19,267	6.4	7.5	77.8	67.8	2.5	6.4	1.3	1.9	1.0	3.0

*Where person of Spanish language not included.

[1] U.S. Bureau of the Census. *U.S. Census of the Population: 1960. General Social and Economic Characteristics, Mississippi.* Final Report PC (1)-26C.

[2] U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census of the Population: 1970. General Social and Economic Characteristics.* Final Report PC(1)-C26.

perienced significant gains in other categories. In educational services and in health services nonwhite females more than doubled their numbers. Nonwhite males also increased their numbers in those two categories (Table 6.)

Education Indicators--- Education contributes to quality of life in two ways. One of these, the aesthetic, is a highly personal matter and the value of education in this regard does not lend itself to quantification. The other way by which education contributes to quality of life is seen in the well-documented relationship between education and earning power; i.e., in general, the more formal education one has the more money one can earn.

The level of education of Mississippians improved from 1960 to 1970 for both whites and nonwhites, males and females, and for all three residential groups (Table 7.). Urban white males appeared to be the best educated of all groups, with 19.2 percent having completed four or more years of college. Nonwhite residents, although their educational achievements did improve, lagged behind whites as they have historically. Rural residents also continued to lag behind urban residents, but the percent increase between 1960 and 1970 for those with four or more years of college was greater for the rural residents.

Housing Indicators--- Housing as a quantifiable dimension of quality of life is evidenced by home ownership, selected plumbing characteristics, number of persons per room, and selected conveniences; i.e., clothes dryer, clothes washer, home freezer and television.

Home Ownership---As measured by the changes in home ownership there was vast improvement from 1960 to 1970 for white and black Mississippians in both urban and rural areas. Although the total number of owned homes decreased for both white and black rural farm

Table 8. Selected Housing Characteristics By Place of Residence and Race, Mississippi, 1960[1] and 1970[2].

Place of Residence and Race	All Occupied Homes							
	Owner Occupied		With Hot and Cold Piped Water	With No Piped Water		With One or More Persons Per Room	
	N	%	%	N	%	N	%
Urban							
White							
1960	100,257	64.5	95.1	1,099	.6	15,547	10.0
1970	141,801	68.0	98.0	1,182	.5	13,648	6.5
Black							
1960	32,913	42.3	42.6	4,038	5.2	26,372	33.9
1970	42,688	48.2	75.4	5,194	5.9	24,310	27.4
Rural Nonfarm							
White							
1960	94,268	68.4	56.6	54,542	29.8	22,442	16.3
1970	149,591	77.5	81.0	28,594	12.3	17,371	9.6
Black							
1960	28,380	38.6	7.8	48,533	65.9	29,883	40.6
1970	44,082	49.9	31.6	50,062	56.7	29,053	34.6
Rural Farm							
White							
1960	54,310	80.7	54.4	19,277	28.6	10,465	15.6
1970	33,849	90.5	88.7	2,368	16.2	3,551	7.4
Black							
1960	17,666	31.6	3.4	47,567	84.7	28,719	51.0
1970	9,495	49.0	25.2	13,020	67.2	8,583	16.0

[1]Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census. *U.S. Census of Housing: 1960.* Volume I, States and Small Areas. Mississippi. Final Report HC (1)-26.

[2]U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census of Housing: 1970 Detailed Housing Characteristics.* Final Report HC (1)-B26 Mississippi.

residents, the rate or percent of ownership increased (Table 3.).

Owner-occupied housing units represented 66.3 percent of the total number of all occupied dwellings in the state in 1970. For 1960 the figure was 57.7 percent. The largest proportionate increase in ownership was achieved by rural farm blacks. The lowest increase was achieved by urban whites but the percent of ownership in this group in 1960 was twice that of rural farm blacks.

Plumbing Characteristics---One of the most significant improvements in level of living or quality of life is the addition of piped water in the home. For rural, nonfarm whites the increase in number of homes with hot and cold piped water was 81.7 percent. Although there was a decrease from 1960 to 1970 in the number of rural white farm homes with hot and cold piped water, the proportion increased.

The increase in rural nonfarm black homes with hot and cold piped water was more than 380 percent. For rural farm blacks the increase was 154 percent; however, it should be noted that the base from which this percentage was computed was rather small. Still, the proportion of rural homes with no piped water was large for blacks. More than two-thirds of the rural farm homes of blacks had no piped water in 1970.

Persons Per Room---The quality of life for both white and black owners and renters (as measured by privacy or lack of crowdedness) improved from 1960 to 1970 (Table 8.). Renters were living in more crowded conditions than were owners in both 1960 and 1970. The conditions for blacks were worse than those for whites, at least in terms of space and privacy.

Table 9. Home Conveniences, By Place of Residence and Race, Mississippi, 1960[1] and 1970[2].

Residence	Percent of Homes Without			
	Clothes Washer	Clothes Dryer	Home Freezer	Television Set
Urban				
White				
1960	27.4	90.2	76.6	11.4
1970	23.5	52.6	56.2	6.1
Black				
1960	56.9	99.2	73.2	45.4
1970	50.6	95.0	73.2	14.1
Rural Nonfarm				
White				
1960	21.0	95.3	64.6	22.8
1970	13.2	43.7	24.6	3.7
Black				
1960	70.0	99.6	90.9	67.3
1970	54.5	97.4	62.3	19.2
Rural Farm				
White				
1960	13.3	96.5	45.0	25.7
1970	12.8	67.5	18.1	4.9
Black				
1960	65.1	99.9	87.6	69.9
1970	44.6	97.0	47.9	18.0

[1] U.S. Bureau of the Census. *U.S. Census of Housing: 1960.* Volume I, States and Small Areas. Mississippi. Final Report HC (1)-16.

[2] U.S. Bureau of the Census. *Census of Housing: 1970 Detailed Housing Characteristics.* Final Report HC (1)-B26. Mississippi.

Conveniences---As with other measures of quality of life, conditions improved for both white and black residents in both urban and rural areas (Table 9.). For example, in 1960 about 90 percent of the white urban homes did not have a clothes dryer, but by 1970 that figure had dropped to 52.6 percent. The addition of these and other conveniences obviously reflects improvements in the quality of life.

Health Indicators---The chances of infant survival reflect not only the medical services available but also such things as the nutrition of the mother, the child, and the adequacy of conditions in the home. The infant mortality rates for blacks and whites in Mississippi decreased between 1960 and 1970 (Table 10.), and the gap in infant mortality between the two races narrowed considerably.

Hospital Beds, Physicians and Dentists---There was virtually no change in the number of physicians or dentists per 1,000 population (Table 10.). The number of hospital beds per thousand population did increase by about one bed between 1960 and 1970.

Senior Citizens---The number of people 65 years old and over increased from 190,029 in 1960[7] to 222,320 in 1970[8]. Facilities for the aged or infirm and the use of these facilities also increased (Table 11.). The number of *patients served* during each year increased by 228 percent. New admissions were up from 1,741 in 1960 to 7,037 in 1970.

The increase in new admissions

[7] *U.S. Bureau of the Census.* **General Population Characteristics** *1970 PC (1)-26B. Mississippi.*

[8] *U.S. Bureau of the Census.* **General Population Characteristics** *1970 PC (1)-26B. Mississippi.*

Table 10. Hospital Beds, Physicians, Dentists, and Infant Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Population, Mississippi, 1960 and 1970.

	1960		1970[2]
Hospital Beds	6.85[1]	(1961)	7.81
Physicians	.77	(1961)	.81
Dentists	.28	(1961)	.27
Infant Mortality			
White	26.6[2]		19.1
Black	54.3		39.9

[1]Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1963.* U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. Figures reported for hospital beds, physicians and dentists are for 1961.

[2]These infant mortality rates represent the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births and are inclusive of children through the first year of life. These 1960 figures are based on material found in the *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1964,* U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

[3]Source for all 1970 statistics: Mississippi Regional Medical Program, *Mississippi Health Resources Profile: 1972,* 880 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, Mississippi.

Table 11. Institutions for the Aged or Infirm, Mississippi, 1960 and 1970.

Institutions For General Patients	1960[1]	1970[2]
Number (on December 31)	93	115
Bed Count (on December 31) (Number)	2,570	6,240
Number of Patients (on December 31)	1,92	5,101
Patients Served during Year (Number)	3,412	11,177
New Admissions during Year (Number)	1,741	7,037

[1]The 1960 figures are approximations using 1961 data. Source: Division of Research, College of Business and Industry, *Mississippi Statistical Abstract: 1973,* Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi.

[2]Division of Research, College of Business and Industry, *Mississippi Statistical Abstract: 1973,* Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi.

could, of course, reflect several different trends, one of which might be a greater willingness of the aged and infirm to utilize the services available. The Medicare and Medicaid programs probably had an impact on the increase in the number of patients admitted to institutions for the aged or infirm.

Welfare Indicators---The number of participants in the various public assistance programs changed noticeably: The number receiving old age assistance and aid to the blind decreased while the number receiving aid to dependent children and aid to the permanently and totally disabled increased (Table 12.).

All types of recipients had an increase in average monthly payments. Adjusting these increases for the change in purchasing power of money showed that the increase was real; that the purchasing power of welfare payments (old age assistance excepted) was indeed larger in 1960 that in 1970. Thus, the state (with the aid of Federal programs) not only assumed some responsibility for a larger number of people in need, but also increased its monetary support.

Table 12. Public Assistance Payments By Programs, Mississippi, 1960 and 1970.*

Type of Expenditure	1960		1970	
	Average Monthly Payments	Number of Recipients	Average Monthly Payments	Number of Recipients
Old Age Assistance	34.58	80,260	45.18	73,534
Aid to Dependent Children	9.36	78,044	13.49	99,951
Aid to the Blind	38.44	6,244	55.22	2,123
Aid to Permanently and totally Disabled	34.61	12,509	53.84	21,930
Total for State		177,057		197,538

***Sources: The source for the 1960 data is the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Statistical Abstract of the United States:* 1951, 1956, 1960-1967, (88th Edition) Washington, D.C., 1967.**

The source for the 1970 data is the Mississippi State Department of Public Welfare, *Public Welfare in Mississippi Annual Report July 1, 1960 - June 30, 1970.*

Comparison of Selected Indicators For Mississippi, The East South Central States, and The United States

Mississippians experienced more change in some quality-of-life indicators than did residents of other Southern states and the United States as a whole (Table 13.).The most apparent change was the relatively greater increase in median family income. Even with a real income increase of 58 percent, however, the 1969 incomes of Mississippians were still below those of their neighbors.

Unemployment declined in Mississippi over the ten years but not by as much as it did for neighboring states or for the United States. Plumbing facilities improved much less in Mississippi than in the East South Central States and in the United States.

Implications for Action

There are no easy solutions to social problems, but action agencies with mandates to engage in activities that will have significant impacts on problems must deal with them to the best of their abilities. As part of their input they should utilize as much factual data as they can possibly bring to bear on the problems they attack.

The role of action agency personnel with respect to factual data requires them to perform two related tasks. First, they must be able to identify the types of data relevant to their particular problem. Second, they must be able to determine the meaning of these facts in light of their problem. For example, this report shows that in 1970 about 29 percent of the

Table 13. Comparison of Selected Quality of Life Indicators for Mississippi, The East South Central States*, and the United States.

Indicators		Mississippi	East South Central*	United States
Median Family Income				
	1959	$2884	$3793	$5660
	1969	6071	7166	9586
Real Income	Change	+58.0%	+41.8%	+27.2%
Percent of Families Classified as Poverty Families				
	1959	52.0	40.0	21.0
	1969	29.0	21.0	11.0
	Change	-23.0	-19.0	-10.0
Total Civilian Labor Force				
Male	1960	476,993	2,803,120	45,792,822
	1970	458,199	2,895,231	49,549,239
	Change	-3.9%	+3.3%	+8.2%
Female	1960	244,630	1,334,073	22,351,257
	1970	298,288	1,778,100	30,501,807
	Change	+21.9%	+33.3%	+36.5%
Unemployment				
	1960	5.4%	5.6%	5.1%
	1970	5.0%	4.8%	4.4%
Home Ownership				
	1960	37.7%	61.8%	61.8%
	1970	66.3%	66.7%	62.9%
Percent of Occupied Housing Units Lacking Some or All Plumbing Facilities				
	1960	45.5%	47.0%	26.0%
	1970	22.1%	16.2%	5.5%

* These figures include Mississippi.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County and City Data Book, 1962* (A Statistical Abstract Supplement) U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1962.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County and City Data Book, 1972* (A Statistical Abstract Supplement) U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1973.

families in Mississippi had an income below the poverty level, but this fact by itself has little value for action agencies. If poverty is viewed as a social problem, personnel of action agencies with assignments to combat poverty must seek additional facts about poverty-stricken families before they can effectively deal with the problem. Having obtained additional facts, they must then ask what the facts mean with respect to their agency resources.

The second task, data interpretation, is critical. If poverty is viewed as the misfortune of the individual, action agencies will tend to focus on programs designed to help poverty-stricken people meet certain needs; e.g., housing, education, medical care, etc. If, on the other hand, poverty is viewed as the manifestation of a flaw in the system, action agencies tend to focus on ways to eliminate the flaw by altering the system. The difference pointed out here is that of focus on causes versus focus on symptoms. For the great majority of action agencies working at the local level a focus on symptoms is appropriate in most instances, but those agencies must be aware that a symptoms focus aims for the alleviation of certain undesirable aspects of a particular social problem and not the solution of the problem itself.

As a means of assisting action agencies in the identification and interpretation of data, two models are presented here. One is a symptoms-focused model and the other is a cause-focused model. Both models use poverty as their problem base, but the basic procedure could be adapted to any problem. Moreover, they can be utilized at different levels; that is, from concrete action programs to abstract theoretical orientations.

The basic procedure involved in the models is simply that of reducing an abstract or complex term to less complex terms. Part of their utility is the fact that they provide a type of blueprint for deductive treatment of complex phenomena in terms of causes and characteristics; i.e., "symptoms". These models, therefore, should be useful in both research and action programs.

A word of caution is in order concerning use of these models, namely, the interrelatedness of causal factors and "symptoms" is not portrayed explicitly. Moreover, the models should not be viewed as complete in the sense that they list all causes and all symptoms. There is no reason, however, why users of the models could not expand them and thereby increase their specificity.

To illustrate the utility of the models, an action agency, viewing family poverty from the causal perspective, might ascertain that the major cause of a lack of adequate family income is the breadwinner's lack of a saleable skill (Figure 1.). On the basis of this information the agency would logically focus its remedial efforts on training programs to upgrade his work skills.

Such programs, however, must be based not only on information pertaining to the poverty-stricken family, but also on knowledge of employment opportunities in various skill areas; e.g., sheet metal work, building trades, etc. It is, in other words, an exercise in futility to train workers for non-existing jobs. Moreover, to assume that upgrading the breadwinner's work skills will have the desired effect of alleviating the "symptoms" of poverty even with a higher paying job is risky. The family's patterns of consumption may be critical; for example, the need and/or desire for plumbing facilities may be very low in the family's scale of priorities but at the same time may be very important in terms of health and sanitation.

Viewing family poverty from the symptoms perspective, another action agency might determine that its most significant impact could be made in relation to housing (Figure 2.). Still another might define its major helping potential as that of promoting and assisting in the development of local organizations to improve conditions through cooperative action.

One characteristic of both models is that they can be read from either the right or left. Reading from left to right is a deductive exercise; for example, in the causal model two direct causes of family poverty are listed and the reader is led to a second cause level wherein are listed several sufficient causes of the direct cause. Cause Level II, in other words, lists causes once removed from the problem. A typical statement drawn from the causal model is: family poverty may be caused by inefficient use of resources, which in turn may be caused by lack of knowledge which is a result of inadequate education.

Specific recommendations for action programs are not listed in this report for two reasons. First, the statewide data in the report are not sufficiently detailed to permit the planning of highly focused programs. Second, personnel of action agencies who have both training and experience in problem-solving are more knowledgeable and better equipped to work on problems from the action base.

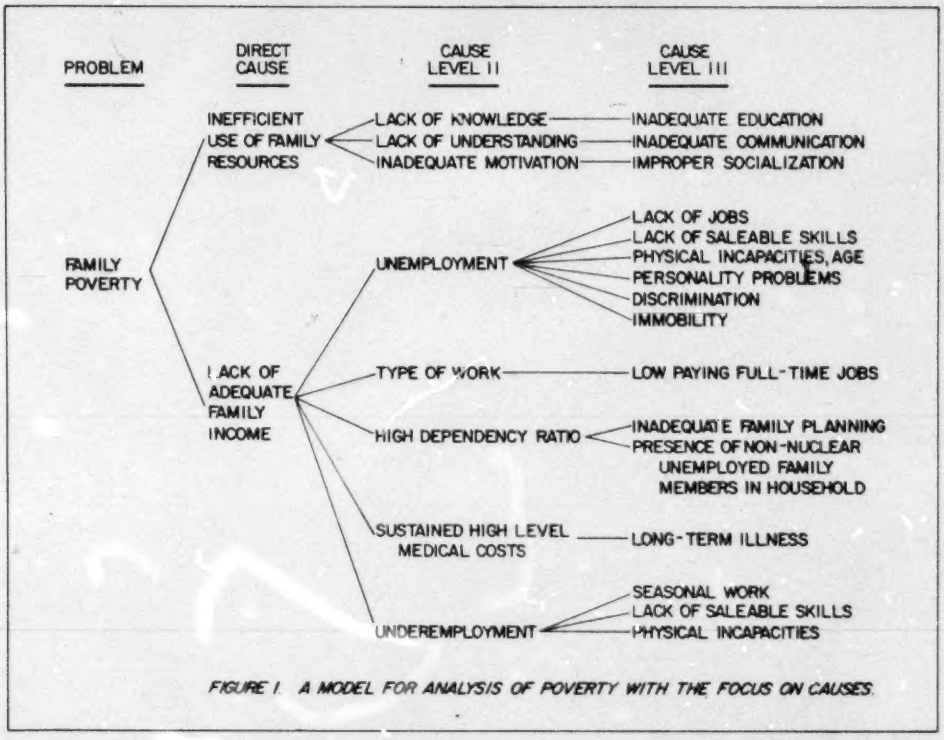

FIGURE 1. A MODEL FOR ANALYSIS OF POVERTY WITH THE FOCUS ON CAUSES.

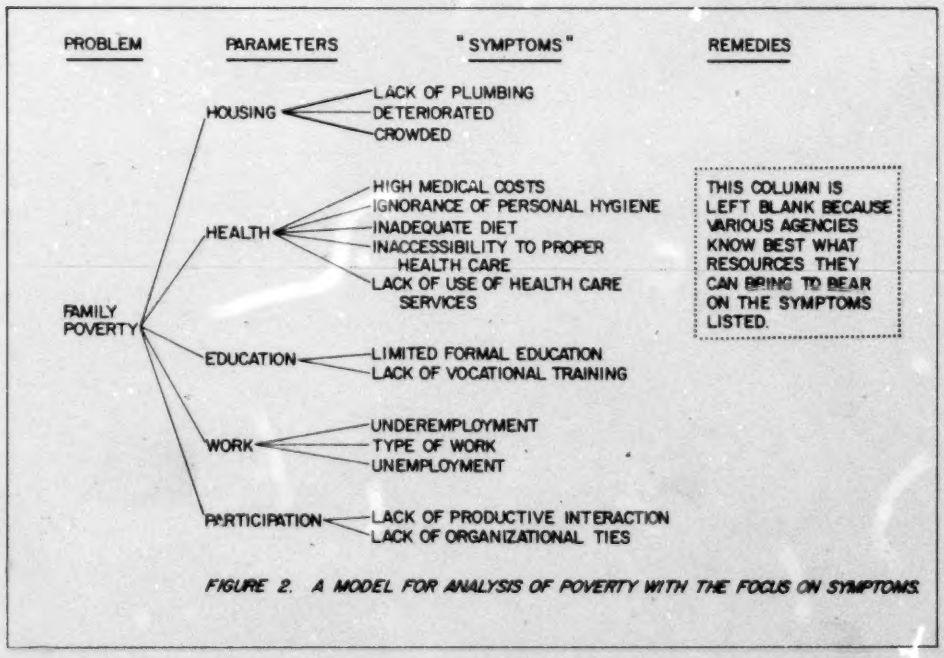

FIGURE 2. A MODEL FOR ANALYSIS OF POVERTY WITH THE FOCUS ON SYMPTOMS.

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